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Chair: Mr. Rosenthal ..... (Guatemala)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Ms. McLurg

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 153: Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (A/65/535 and A/65/586)

1. **Mr. Yamazaki** (Controller), introducing the Secretary-General's report on the budget for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (A/65/535), said that, by its resolution 64/278, the General Assembly had approved commitment authority with assessment in the amount of $380 million (gross) for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2010. The proposed budget amounted to $865,313,200, which represented an increase of $132,920,200 over the resources approved for the 2009/10 period.

2. The variances in requirements, which were explained in chapter III of the report, were attributable primarily to increased requirements resulting from the deployment of additional military and police personnel pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1908 (2010) and 1927 (2010).

3. The proposed staffing for 2010/11 reflected a net increase of 2 national posts, 46 United Nations Volunteer positions and 339 temporary positions, and a net decrease of 1 international post. The additional net requirements of $26,905,400 related to the 339 temporary positions were partly offset by a decrease of $17,568,000 attributable to the exclusion of requirements for special measures provided in the 2009/10 period and the application of a vacancy factor of 14 per cent, compared with 9 per cent in the 2009/10 period.

4. Increased requirements of $31,101,100 under facilities and infrastructure were attributable to construction services, standard reimbursements to troop- and formed police-contributing countries, security services for additional residential and office premises throughout the Mission area and alteration and renovation services in support of the rehabilitation of all MINUSTAH premises affected by the earthquake of 12 January 2010.

5. Additional requirements of $11,145,200 under ground transportation were attributable primarily to the acquisition of 280 additional vehicles and the replacement of 110 light vehicles in view of the surge in operations following the earthquake.

6. The actions requested of the General Assembly were set out in paragraph 289 of the report.

7. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/65/586), said that, during the Advisory Committee's review of the budget proposal, the Secretary-General had presented a revised budget estimate of $864,189,700 for 2010/11. The reduced amount was based on a lower projected requirement for helicopter rental. A summary of the revised estimates was contained in annex I of the Advisory Committee's report.

8. The Advisory Committee had also been provided with an updated deployment schedule for the Mission. On the basis of that schedule, the Advisory Committee recommended an increase in the vacancy rates for formed police units and for national and international staff under general temporary assistance.

9. The Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should appropriate an amount of $853,827,400 for the maintenance of the Mission from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011. It also recommended that the General Assembly should approve assessment of the amount of $473,827,400 for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011, in addition to the amount of $380 million already assessed under resolution 64/278.

10. **Mr. Errázuriz** (Chile), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, said that he wished to reiterate the Group's commitment to the full reconstruction of Haiti following the January 2010 earthquake. The situation in Haiti had been further complicated by Hurricane Tomas, which had struck the country in November 2010, and the cholera epidemic. As a result of those unforeseen developments, the Mission had been forced to increase its staffing and redouble its efforts to support the recovery, reconstruction and stabilization of Haiti. The Group was therefore concerned to note that some international stakeholders had not fulfilled their pledges to provide financial assistance to the Haitian authorities.

11. Despite the complete destruction of its headquarters by the earthquake, MINUSTAH had been able to resume its operations in many parts of Haiti. The Group commended Mission staff for their ability to work under the most difficult of circumstances and urged them to continue to fulfil their mandate.

12. The Group attached great importance to quick-impact projects, which made it possible to meet immediate needs and build confidence in the Mission's mandate and the peace process. Such projects should be implemented in accordance with the priorities established by the Haitian Government. For its part, the Group had come to the assistance of Haiti even before MINUSTAH had been established. A large medical contingent composed of nationals of nearly every Latin American and Caribbean country was currently helping to suppress the cholera epidemic and meet the Haitian people's other public health needs.

13. The Group emphasized the need for the international community to fulfil its commitments to mobilize financial resources for the reconstruction of Haiti. In that connection, in order to make a lasting impact, the United Nations should focus not only on establishing security, but also on promoting the country's socio-economic development and achieving lasting peace.

14. **Mr. Lafortune** (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, said that, in 2010, MINUSTAH had been required to operate in one of the most challenging environments ever encountered by a United Nations mission. However, despite the challenges, the work of rebuilding Haiti must continue. In that connection, the three delegations welcomed the strong role that the Mission had played in supporting the conduct of presidential and legislative elections in November 2010, and trusted that it would continue to assist the Haitian people and their newly elected Government in building a secure and stable country.

15. Although the democratic development and consolidation of State authority was a key element of the Mission's work, the situation in Haiti would not stabilize unless security, public order and the rule of law were established and the security sector was reformed. A strong police force and strong judicial and correctional systems were crucial for achieving those goals. It was therefore vital to continue to implement and update the Haitian National Police reform plan. The three delegations also welcomed the proposed actions to strengthen the Haitian Department of Prison Administration. The training and mentoring provided by MINUSTAH to the Haitian corrections authorities would be crucial for strengthening the rule of law and would complement the work being done with regard to police reform.

16. After the earthquake, several camps had been established to accommodate internally displaced persons. The three delegations commended the Secretary-General for his proposal aimed at helping the Haitian National Police to protect those displaced by the earthquake, with special regard to women and children. They also noted with appreciation the Secretary-General's intention to resettle more than half of the displaced population by December 2011.

17. In view of the serious blow that the earthquake had dealt to Haitian institutions, the provision of logistical and technical support to the Government would be crucial to the success of the Mission. He trusted that all such support would be provided with strict accountability by all implementing partners.

18. The three delegations noted that the temporary nature of the Mission's expanded role was reflected in the Secretary-General's request for 62 temporary positions. In the informal consultations, they would seek clarification of the implications of that temporary expansion for staff, budgets and other resources.

19. **Ms. Sánchez Lorenzo** (Cuba) said that the current situation in Haiti was the result of the unjust international order which condemned millions of people to live in underdevelopment and allowed the poor to suffer horribly from the effects of natural disasters and epidemics. It was therefore regrettable that only a fraction of the financial resources required to rebuild Haiti had been received thus far, and it did not appear that the outstanding amount would be immediately forthcoming.

20. In order to assist in controlling the cholera epidemic, her Government would soon dispatch the Henry Reeve International Contingent of Doctors Specializing in Disaster Situations and Serious Epidemics. Consisting of some 300 doctors, nurses and health-care technicians, the Contingent would join medical workers already deployed in the field. In that connection, she noted that more than 200 of the medical personnel deployed to Haiti were graduates of the Latin American School of Medicine, whose students came from many different countries, including the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic.

21. Given the current situation in Haiti, the international community must act swiftly and without conditions. Promises must be kept and resources must be provided to help those most in need, in cooperation with the Government and people of Haiti.

22. **Ms. Dunlop** (Brazil) said that, despite immense human and material losses, Haiti was making significant strides in its recovery, and key political processes had been resumed. However, the recovery effort was far from complete and reconstruction was still a significant challenge. Building on the progress made thus far required strong leadership by the Government and sustained support from the Mission in three priority areas: security, recovery and reconstruction, and the conclusion of the electoral process.

23. While her delegation supported the Secretary-General's proposals as a whole, it wished to emphasize that the problems facing Haiti could only be overcome through capacity-building and the strengthening of national institutions. It was therefore crucial that the Mission should provide logistical support and technical expertise to the Haitian Government as expeditiously as possible, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 1927 (2010) and 1944 (2010).

24. The deployment of the additional police units authorized by the Security Council would allow United Nations police to expand the scope of their activities. Sufficient resources should be allocated to enable MINUSTAH to reimburse troop- and police-contributing countries without delay.

25. Every effort must be made to ensure the safety of Haitians living in camps for internally displaced persons, in particular women and children. The Mission should continue its work in that regard, paying special attention to protection against sexual and gender-based violence. The expanded community violence reduction programmes and the allocation of additional resources for quick-impact projects would contribute significantly to those efforts.

26. Her Government was closely following developments related to the recent presidential and legislative elections. MINUSTAH should continue to support the electoral process and help to maintain a secure and stable environment. Her delegation called on Haiti's political leaders to remain committed to the electoral process, which was vital for achieving stability and creating a favourable environment for economic growth and investment.

27. **Mr. Mérorès** (Haiti) said that, even though it had had to rebuild its own facilities after the earthquake, MINUSTAH had continued to carry out its mandate, which had been made more difficult by the outbreak of cholera and the need to support the recently concluded elections. He thanked the United Nations and all Member States for the support they had already given to Haiti and appealed to the international community to fulfil the promises it had made to the Haitian people and Government at the International Donors' Conference held in New York on 31 March 2010.

28. His delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal regarding the financing of the Mission, particularly the resources proposed for quick-impact projects. Such projects should be implemented as soon as possible and in cooperation with the Haitian Government, in order to avoid duplication of effort. His delegation was concerned about the high vacancy rate for national staff and called on the Secretariat to make every effort to remedy the situation.

29. **Mr. Benmoussa** (Morocco), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that his delegation was extremely surprised that, in her statement, the representative of Cuba had referred to an entity that was not recognized by the United Nations. His delegation objected to the reference, which was inappropriate in the context of the Fifth Committee.

30. **Ms. Sánchez Lorenzo** (Cuba), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that her Government would continue to work with all those who wished to join Cuba in carrying out its cooperation programme, including with regard to the deployment of medical staff to Haiti. Sufficient information concerning the scholarships awarded by Cuba to students from Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, was available in the reports of the Secretary-General on offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Agenda item 129: Programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 (*continued*)

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth sessions (A/65/333 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1)

31. **Ms. Van Buerle** (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division), introducing the Secretary-General's report on revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth sessions

(A/65/333 and Corr.1), said that requirements estimated at $4,708,500 for the biennium 2010-2011 would arise as a result of those resolutions and decisions. Of those requirements, an estimated amount of $1,284,400 was related to activities of a perennial nature for which provision had already been made in the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011.

32. With respect to the remaining requirements, estimated at $3,424,100, the Secretary-General proposed to accommodate $2,940,300 from within the existing appropriation for 2010-2011, while the balance, estimated at $483,800, would be funded through a commitment authority under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management ($147,000), and section 23, Human rights ($336,800), of the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011.

33. The holding of a workshop in 2012 would require an estimated amount of $283,100 and would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013.

34. The conclusions and action required of the General Assembly were set out in chapter III of the report.

35. Introducing the Secretary-General's report on revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its fifteenth session (A/65/333/Add.1 and Corr.1), she said that requirements estimated at $7,911,400 (net) for the biennium 2010-2011 would arise as a result of those resolutions and decisions. Of those requirements, an estimated amount of $4,622,000 was related to activities of a perennial nature for which provision had already been made in the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011. It was proposed that an additional amount estimated at $967,500 (net) should be met from within the approved appropriations for the biennium 2010-2011. It was further proposed that the balance of the requirements, estimated at $2,321,900 (net), should be met under the provisions of the contingency fund for the biennium 2010-2011.

36. The conclusions and action required of the General Assembly were set out in chapter III of the report.

37. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related reports of the Advisory Committee (A/65/548 and Add.1), said that, with regard to the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council at its twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth sessions, the Advisory Committee recommended that the additional requirements in the amount of $3,424,100 for the current biennium should be accommodated within the resources appropriated under the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 and should be reported in the context of the second performance report.

38. With regard to the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council at its fifteenth session, the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the Secretary-General's proposals, with the exception of the additional resources requested in support of Council resolution 15/23 on elimination of discrimination against women. In reviewing the descriptions of the proposed P-4 and P-3 posts, the Advisory Committee found that some of their functions overlapped. It therefore recommended resources for the establishment, under general temporary assistance, of one P-4 post, one P-2 post and one General Service (Other level) post.

39. The Advisory Committee was cognizant of the time lag between the adoption of Council resolutions and decisions and the ex post facto approval by the General Assembly of the related resource requirements. It therefore recommended that the Secretary-General should consider exploring options for streamlining and synchronizing the resource requests related to those resolutions and decisions with resource requests related to the proposed programme budgets submitted biennially by the Secretariat.

The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m.